

# V.Catholic viewpoint†

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DIOCESE OF ARMIDALE



*Blessed are we*

# An Encouraging Message from the Apostolic Nuncio



## The Bishop Speaks

“The Holy Father Pope Francis cares about you and prays for you.” This was the message that the Apostolic Nuncio, the Pope’s representative in Australia, brought to the people of our Diocese recently. His Excellency Archbishop Adolfo Tito Yllana visited the Diocese of Armidale from the 22<sup>nd</sup> to the 26<sup>th</sup> October.

Unlike visits from previous Apostolic Nuncios who have come to be present for specific events such as the Ordination of Bishops, this was a pastoral visit in which Archbishop Yllana visited several parishes, schools, and nursing homes and met with many of the priests and religious sisters as well as some of the parishioners in their homes.

As well as conveying to us the love and prayers of the Pope, Archbishop Yllana shared another message with us. He said that before coming to Australia he had heard that we were a very secular and irreligious nation. But as he makes his way around Australia gradually visiting all the dioceses and meeting many of the people, he says that he has found the exact opposite to be the case.

He has discovered that our parishes and schools are filled with many good people of deep faith and enduring hope. He has found that the Church in Australia is undertaking many great works of service for those in need through our various ministries, works, and agencies. He said he has found deep faith





and strong love in our land. That doesn't sound very irreligious to me!


The Apostolic Nuncio is a diplomat, with the same diplomatic rank as an ambassador so he has to keep some things to himself. But he did share with us that when he conveyed this same message to Pope Francis he responded "I'm very happy to hear that." I'm very happy to hear it too.

Hearing these encouraging words from the Pope's official representative surprised me a little. He reminded me that I may be listening too much to what some elements in the media say about our Church and our country. It's time for us to tune out from this negative message, this "fake news" and to take notice of each other and pay attention to

the faith, hope, and love in those around us in our families, parishes, schools, and workplaces. Perhaps we are at the forefront of a "silent revolution" that we have not yet noticed!

I am sure all those who met the Apostolic Nuncio or heard him speak will remember his visit: The parishioners of Armidale, South Tamworth, and Inverell; the students and staff of O'Connor Catholic College Armidale, Saint Nicholas' Primary School East Tamworth, and Holy Trinity Central School Inverell; the residents of Nazareth House Tamworth and McLean Care Inverell. He related so personally to everybody he met and was interested in what they had to say. He delighted in the musical performances of our school students and was impressed by their manners and knowledge. He visited many of those who work for the Diocese in the Catholic Schools Office, the ADIG, Centacare New England North West, Saint Alberts College, and the Diocesan Chancery and learnt about the work and mission carried out by each for the good of the Church and the people who live in our area.

*Ubi Petrus, ibi Ecclesia.* This ancient Latin quote attributed to Saint Ambrose means "Where Peter is, there is the Church". In other words, we find the Church wherever we find people united in faith and love with the successor of Saint Peter, the Pope. I sensed the closeness of Pope Francis to us during the pastoral visit of his official representative archbishop Yllana, and I asked him to convey back to the Pope the love and the prayers of the people of the Diocese of Armidale.

  
**Most Reverend Michael Kennedy**  
 Bishop of Armidale

#### Pope Tweet: Pope Francis@Pontifex·17 Nov

Nobody can delude themselves by thinking, "I'm fine because I'm not doing anything wrong". To be a follower of Jesus it is not enough not to do wrong, because there is good that we must do!

## Mrs Kristine Knight Retires



*Kristine Knight in the library*

After 23 years Mrs Kristine Knight is retiring from her job as Librarian at St. Francis Xavier's School Narrabri. In her retirement Kris plans to spend time with family and travel!

**Why did you choose to be a Librarian and what have you most enjoyed about your job?**

Sharing a love of books and reading and watching children get 'lost' in a book. Trying to share with children that reading is a skill that we need throughout life. Helping students to find a book they will enjoy.

**What have been your proudest achievements as a Librarian?**

When I started at St. Francis Xavier's, the manual system of borrowing used cards, and books had to be stamped with the date. I was fortunate to be part of a Diocesan Committee which aimed to help all Librarians in the Diocese move to the automated system, Oliver. Professional development was also a focus of this Committee.

**What have been your proudest achievements while working at St. Francis Xavier's School?**

At St Francis Xavier School we were fortunate to have a new Library built. It is a beautiful and modern space which the students love to use. I also started Brain Olympia which has been a successful Diocesan activity for over 20 years!

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# Apostolic Nuncio Visit to the Diocese of Armidale

## Archbishop Adolfo Tito Yllana



Archbishop Yllana was born on the 6<sup>th</sup> February 1948 in Naga City in the Philippines. He is a Roman Catholic archbishop and the Apostolic Nuncio to Australia.

On 19 March 1972 he was ordained a priest of the Archdiocese of Caceres. He went on to obtain a Doctor of Both Laws, Canon and Civil Law, from the Lateran University in Rome and began his diplomatic career after finishing his studies at the Academia Ecclesiastica, the premier academy for the diplomatic corps in the Vatican. His first diplomatic posts were in Ghana, Sri Lanka, Turkey, Lebanon, Hungary and Taiwan.

In 2001 he was appointed titular archbishop of Montecorvino and Apostolic Nuncio to Papua New Guinea. He was then appointed apostolic nuncio to Pakistan in 2006, to the Democratic Republic of the Congo in Africa in 2010 and to Australia in 2015.

It was an honour to have Archbishop Yllana visit the Diocese of Armidale.

*Thank you to Lou Farina for his contribution to the photos of The Nuncio visit in Tamworth.*

1. *Fr Thadeus Ike, Archbishop Yllana & Fr Roel Llave at Inverell Parish*
2. *Archbishop Yllana speaking with O'Connor students*
3. *Fr Paul Aguilar, Archbishop Yllana, Mrs Anne Fittler & Bishop Kennedy at South Tamworth Parish*
4. *Archbishop Yllana with students from Inverell Primary school*
5. *Bishop Kennedy and Archbishop Yllana present Mr Bob*

- Kneipp with the Bishop Kennedy Medal, with his daughter Brenda and Fr Roel at the McLean Care Nursing Home*
6. *Archbishop Yllana make a visit to Mr and Mrs Patrick & Yvonne Mowle at their home in Armidale*
7. *Archbishop Yllana celebrating Mass at South Tamworth Parish*
8. *A visit to O'Connor Catholic College: Fr Francis Afu, Meg Lye, Archbishop Yllana, Simon Di Luzio, Bishop Kennedy & Regina Menz (principal)*

# Werris Creek Parish Celebrates 100 Years

Many parishioners, past and present, attended the celebrations for the Centenary of our parish of St Thomas More, Werris Creek. Proceedings commenced with a concelebrated Mass for priests unable to attend the main celebration. Those attending were Mgr Ted Wilkes of Uralla, Fr Max Davis of Newcastle (former parish priest,) Fr John McHugh of Gunnedah, Fr Thaddeus Ike of Inverell, Fr James Poovanhinkal of Narrabri, Fr Paul Aguilar of South Tamworth, Fr Chris Onuekwusi of East Tamworth, Fr Abmar Dumayag of Moree and our own priest, Fr Vic Ignacio, all who concelebrated a beautiful and most spiritual Mass and then enjoyed a very tasty lunch at the parish offices.

On the Feast day of Our Lady of the Rosary, who is the patron of our Diocese, parishioners came together with our Bishop, several priests and religious for the main celebrations of the occasion.

Firstly the blessing of the new parish offices and meeting room by Bishop Michael Kennedy. Following this all proceeded to the church led by servers, readers, congregation and finally the Bishop and priests for the celebration of Holy Mass.

The priests included our previous pastor Fr John Curran

of Manilla/Barraba, Fr Paul Aguilar and Fr Vic.

The Mass was led by the Bishop with Deacon Paul Manvell of Tamworth, assisting him.

During his homily the Bishop spoke of the history of the Parish, including the three buildings that have housed the worshippers of the town and district for over 100 years. These include a now private residence still standing in Deeks Street and the building behind the present church which had become St Joseph's School. Both these dwellings were dedicated to St Thomas the Apostle.

Our very modern and new church was built by Fr Pat Shanahan in 1971 who unfortunately passed away before he could fulfil his dream. It was completed by the man who took his place Mgr Clarrie Fisher. During Mass the Filipino Choir from South Tamworth sang two hymns which were very enjoyable. At the Golf Club following Mass 100 guests sat for a delicious lunch and were entertained by the Baltic Bar Mitzvah Trio which was also very enjoyable.

*Elizabeth Jones*



*St Thomas More Church Werris Creek and old convent*



*Mr Brian Cullen, Sr Jan Baker, Bishop Kennedy & Fr Vic Ignacio cutting the celebration cake.*



*Unveiling of the Official Plaque with Bishop Kennedy and Fr Vic Ignacio*

# 150 Years celebrated in the Inverell Sacred Heart Parish



*Inverell's First Catholic Church*

When Inverell was in its infancy 150 years ago time has shown us what a strong parish this was and is today. From humble beginnings in 1868, when parishioners had to travel to Maitland or wait for a priest to come to the area, which he did once or twice a year or join with other denominations when a church service was being conducted in a homestead or village.

Inverell's first Catholic Church looked so grand surrounded by a white picket fence, and its prominent bell tower, but soon the congregation outgrew it. By 1914 a second church was built alongside the new two storey Presbytery, but soon this church was to be demolished to make way for the new Shire Council building. The new Church was built on the old school grounds in Vivian Street and the new presbytery was built where the original school building once stood.

To celebrate these wonderful building years of not only bricks and mortar but of the Catholic congregation in the Inverell Parish it was only fitting we celebrate these 150 years.

The celebrations began with food, glorious food a

plenty at the Parish Picnic, with games for the children, a great get together. Mass was held with a gathering of clergy, the main celebrant being Bishop Gerard Hanna. During the Mass 15 couples were invited to renew their marriage vows. This was followed by everyone invited to a sumptuous lunch on the new enclosed verandah. First thing Saturday morning a historical walk took place in the old section of the Inverell cemetery. Saturday evening after Mass celebrated by Bishop Michael Kennedy parishioners moved to the RSM Club for dinner and entertainment.

The verandah area lent itself to be the ideal exhibition spot for the hanging pictures, stories and memorabilia, a talking point that brought back memories of those early days of the church. There were marriage photos of couples in the 20's, 30s, 40s, 50s, 60s, and 70s. The display was open all week. A commemorative book has been printed to honour the occasion and to celebrate Inverell's 150<sup>th</sup> year as a parish. Copies of the book are still available at the Parish office at a cost of \$20. For further details phone 02 6722 1103.



*Cutting the Anniversary Cake. A group of 80 years plus parishioners with Bishop Kennedy. Pat Coleman, John McCormack, Shirley Hardy, Bishop Kennedy, Eileen Hanna, Herb McArdle, Geraldine Langtry and John Henderson*



*Herb and Audrey McArdle who renewed their marriage vows*

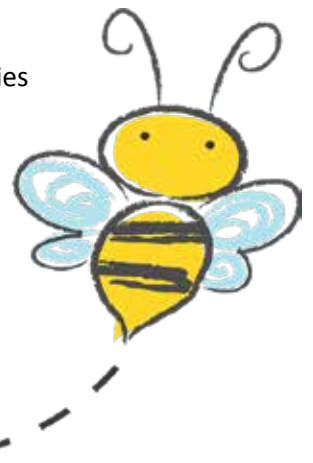
# Beyond the Birds and the Bees

In a short time I will be speaking to my 9 year old son about the beauty and gift of human sexuality. I ask the Holy Souls to help me in this task so that I can spiritually inoculate him for what lies ahead.

"Be not afraid" said the great St John Paul II, and in that vein I highly recommend the excellent book; *"Beyond the Birds and the Bees – Raising Sexually Whole and Holy Kids"* by Greg and Lisa Popcak. This is a gem of a book full of practical advice for parents but suitable for anyone who wants to be better equipped intellectually and spiritually to pre-empt and fend off the inevitable attacks which will come our way and already do for many families on a daily basis. It has been described as 'an answered prayer for parents working to raise faithful Catholic children in a sexually confused culture.'

I was privileged to meet Mr and Mrs Popcak and their family at the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia in 2015. What a powerhouse of evangelical Catholicism they are. But whilst they espouse Catholic vision and truth they recognise that many fall short of it and are wounded so their innovative online counselling service ([www.catholiccounsellors.com](http://www.catholiccounsellors.com)) tries to provide professional, practical, pastoral assistance to individuals and families facing all manner of problems.

**Edmund Adamus**



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# What Matters Most to the Nation's Young People

## Archbishop Fisher discusses the Youth SYNOD

“It was quite interesting, the biggest single issue they raised was mental health issues, that a lot of young people suffer from depression, anxiety, poor self-esteem, issues with eating disorders, and other related issues. I never would have guessed this was the first issue on their mind,” he said, stressing: “They care very strongly about mental health issues.”

“Another area they care very strongly about,” he said, “was regarding issues of identity, their ethnic identity. We have a lot of immigrant and migrant groups in Australia,” he said, noting: “they and the next generation are trying to work out, what am I? Am I Australian? Am I Italian? Am I African? Am I Indian? What am I?”

They also are trying to understand, he said, not just their ethnic identity, but their sexual identity and spiritual identity. “These issues,” he noted, “of how I sort out who I am, and what matters to me, are very important to the young people in Australia.

The third area which greatly matters to them, Archbishop Fisher said, has to do with “relationship issues. They are worried about being lonely. How do they find the right

person to be their partner for life, hopefully through marriage and a family, especially when they have seen so many relationships on the rocks, and perhaps even their family hasn’t gone so well...”

When asked how do they believe the Church ought to help them as they grapple through these mental health issues, he said: “I think they wanted us to understand this is worrying them. But I think there is a real sense, from this feedback from our young people, that we can help. Often at the heart of these issues are questions about spirituality, about where do I find meaning in life, where do I find hope. I am so anxious all the time, and I do not know whether there is a God, anyone who loves me, anyone I can go to for help.”

When asking if the abuses were among those main concerns as well, the Archbishop observed they were not, certainly not to the same degree. “I think the abuse issue, of it being done to young people, was during the 60s, 70s, 80s, very largely the cases that we know of. So they are now my age, those victims. That is exactly when I was a young person. So it is quite distant for our young people, even though it has affected our trust.

**FULL ARTICLE: [SYNOD 2018 INTERVIEW: AUSTRALIAN ARCHBISHOP FISHER: ‘I NEVER WOULD HAVE GUESSED THAT WAS THE FIRST ISSUE ON THEIR MIND](#)**

# YEAR OF YOUTH CROSS PILGRIMAGE



*St Joseph's Warialda students explore the Year of Youth Cross' symbolism*

## St Joseph's Barraba

Father Curran blessed the Cross and explained the significance of it to the congregation. During the mass Mrs Deb McDouall addressed the congregation and told them a little about the Cross' purpose and significance. With the help of school captains Cate, Ben and Sam, the congregation learned about the symbols on the cross and the hours involved in its creation by Mr Frank Patricks, teacher at McCarthy Catholic College in Tamworth.

During the week all classes had the opportunity to be in the presence of the cross for quiet reflection, prayer and contemplation. Each class received an introduction to the Year of Youth Cross and learned about the significance of the symbols and artwork on the Cross. On Friday the Cross moved back to St John's Church where it was the central focus for our school Mass. All classes were represented by a candle placed at the foot of the Cross and the Year 5 & 6 class led the school in prayers and hymns focused on youth and faith development. To hear the children's dismay and disappointment on Monday on entering the library and seeing the cross gone, reinforces how much they appreciated it and enjoyed spending time with it in our school.

*Mrs Deb McDouall*

## St Joseph's Warialda Reflection

It was an honour to have hosted the Year of Youth Cross at St Joseph's Warialda. We accepted the Year Of Youth Cross from St Joseph's Barraba and took part in a beautiful liturgy at St Mary's Church Bingara.

Our students took part in a guided meditation around the Cross where they lit candles and offered their prayers before it and explored and reflected on the symbols before drawing them.

Throughout the week there were opportunities for the students to visit the hall at lunchtime to spend some quiet time before the Cross. Mrs Gilmore, art teacher, and Miss Stevens, an English teacher, from Warialda High School brought their students to St Joseph's to hear about the Year of Youth Cross' Pilgrimage and to experience its beauty and craftsmanship first hand.

St Joseph's students gathered around the Year Of Youth Cross one last time to reflect on All Souls Day. Later that morning, the Stage 3 students handed over the Year of Youth Cross to Holy Trinity Inverell during a liturgy at St Patrick's Church Delungra.

*Mr Joseph Dimech*

# YEAR OF YOUTH CROSS PILGRIMAGE

## Holy Trinity Inverell

Holy Trinity School has just had a week with the Year of Youth Cross. It was a week of prayer and reflection that began with a wonderful handover liturgy in Delungra. Student leaders from Holy Trinity and St Joseph's Warialda met half way and prayed together as the Cross was passed from one school to another. During our week each class had time for reflection with the Cross and to explore the intricate artwork that makes up the Cross. The dark setting of our Performing Arts Centre allowed the lighting of the Southern Cross to be very effective. Mr Gibson our REC took the Cross to Dundee to pass to St Joseph's Tenterfield.

*Mrs Jillian Rainger*

## St Patrick's Walcha

The Year of the Youth Cross spent a week in Walcha at St.

Patrick's School. The Cross was erected in the school's library where staff, children and community could easily see the Cross and admire its many symbols.

The whole school gathered together around the Cross on Wednesday afternoon, during which time the features and symbolism of the Cross were discussed. It was quite obvious that the Cross had an impact on the students through their many insights and questions.

Following the discussion, students had the opportunity to draw their favourite symbols on a paper Cross and explain their reasoning behind their selection.

The following Friday, the school and parish community gathered around the Cross to celebrate a liturgy before our school's formal assembly.

*Elizabeth Makeham*



*Holy Trinity Students gather  
around the Year of Youth Cross  
in reflection*

# Doing it tough?

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# Singing up a Storm!

*St Mary's Gunnedah Students & staff in Armidale for New England Sings*

Over 800 students came together to perform at 'New England Sings'. This event is open to all students in the New England area and many of our Parish Schools had students participating.

Following is an account from a St Mary's Gunnedah student:

Students from the St Mary's Gunnedah choir travelled to Armidale to participate in New England Sings! We arrived at Armidale Conservatorium and went straight into two singing rehearsals followed by a three hour rehearsal with the orchestra. We then went out to dinner at the bowling club and returned to our accommodation

to get some well earned rest ready for our two concerts the next morning.

On Sunday morning we made our way to Lazenby Hall for a quick rehearsal followed by our first two hour concert. We had a short break, followed by another two hour concert. Students performed original compositions by Felix Rebel from The Cat Empire, conducted by Mark O'Leary, accompanied by the Armidale Youth Orchestra and the massed choir.

All students thoroughly enjoyed the experience and would recommend it to all aspiring singers in the future.

*Carter Cameron, Year 11*



# Comfort from Crackers

In chaplaincy, we all bring special skills. At the South West Rocks Annual Training Seminar, Fr Anthony Koppman, our chaplain at Tamworth brought along his good mate 'Crackers', his adorable Labrador. Crackers often accompanies Anthony on pastoral visits.

Preceding the death of a very ill police employee, Anthony and Crackers visited the lady in hospital and Crackers proved to have very good pastoral skills. Crackers simply 'connected' with the lady. A few months ago, the lady passed away, however she left in peace, knowing that she was truly loved and cared for.

Sometimes speaking to and connecting with Police officers and employees can be difficult. Occasionally as chaplains we come across people who for one reason or another, simply do not wish to engage with us. At these times, we need to think outside the square to form good pastoral relationship. Anthony and Crackers sure did!

Thank you for doing what you do. The members of the NSW Police Force are keenly aware that they are cared for by their chaplains. Yes, we occasionally

come across someone who doesn't wish to engage with us, for whatever reason, but maybe Crackers has a lesson for us in these situations- just love and care for people. Be gentle to them, and they will know that they are loved.

Thanks again for all that you do for the Police Family.

*From the NSW Police Chaplaincy Newsletter  
The Senior Chaplaincy Team*



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*The Sisters of the Immaculata Mission Team with students from O'Connor Catholic College and Fr Francis Afu*

## Sisters of the Immaculata Mission Team Visits Armidale Cathedral Parish

### Sr. Mary Immanuel speaks

The Immaculata Community are a community in Australia, made up of Sisters, Brothers and Lay members, who seek holiness and to foster spiritual renewal through Adoration, prayer and faith formation, with a particular devotion to Mary. By introducing and strengthening people in the gift of prayer and in the knowledge and love of the Catholic faith, we seek to help people discover more deeply their identity as a child of God and the gift that they have to offer the Church and the world.

Our community serves in a variety of ways including:

- running retreats for different age groups • supporting and running both junior and senior youth groups • mother's groups • children's Adoration • young adult groups and various prayer groups
- facilitating sacramental preparation programs and RCIA • leading music • faith formation

We also seek to outreach and evangelise in the community, through visits to families, the sick and the elderly. As part of our ministry, the Sisters run a live-in long-term Mission School for young adults, from August until January. The participants are formed in the Catholic faith through prayer, teachings, community life and mission outreach. During the School, the Sisters and participants will spend one month traveling around Australia to do mission and to put into practice what they've been taught.

"Today a group of you visited my school and I would like to say thank you so much. It was an amazing day with the music and the games! I found it so interesting that people can feel and connect with God in different ways. I would like to say thank you for getting me out of my comfort zone to play some guitar for you." – Year 8 student

### Their Time in Armidale Cathedral Parish

With the permission of Bishop Michael Kennedy, I invited the Sisters of the Immaculata to visit the Cathedral Parish of Armidale. Their time in Armidale was simply a breath of fresh air. They embody the Joy of the Gospel that Pope Francis frequently speaks about. They brought back good memories and gave many parishioners an opportunity to reconnect with the times when nuns wore habits and mingled with people. It was also a good experience for the young parishioners in our schools (Saint Mary's and O'Connor). Many had the opportunity to see a nun for the first time wearing a habit. Some of the children asked questions like: "why are your clothes so different from others? Another child asked, do you carry God inside that thing (habit)?" Their time in Armidale Cathedral Parish was Spirit Filled. My thanks to the sisters, their team, to Kerry Steller who coordinated their visit and all who assisted to make their visit a rich experience.

*Fr. Francis Afu  
Cathedral Administrator.*

# Around 'n About

## Bonza Beef Bonanza for St Mary's College Gunnedah

St Mary's College Gunnedah came out on top at the Upper Hunter Beef Bonanza. The agriculture team took out supreme champion live exhibit with a Murray Grey partly owned by the College.

The 602kg steer beat out 385 steers to receive the Stan Watson Memorial trophy and also won his heavyweight carcass class. Overall, the steer finished third as a carcass.

All of the school's exhibits came in the top three of their classes. There were 880 students competing from all over the state including Dubbo and Coonamble, and as far south as Yass. St Mary's was also up against local students from Gunnedah High School, Farrer Memorial Agricultural High School and Calrossy Anglican School.



*Holly Miller, Saige Mitchell, Pyper Bourke-Tindal, Bradley Miller*



## Bullseye scored at camp

Year 5 children from St Nicholas Primary Tamworth travelled to Lake Keepit for their camp. The children enjoyed archery, raft building, kayaking, riding the giant swing and monkey climbing. There was lots of fun and teamwork had by all.

*St Nicholas' Tamworth Year 5 students at Archery*

## Baptisms at Bingara

St Mary's Catholic Church, Bingara celebrated the baptisms of cousins, Freddie Bruce Fleming and Winston Bill Boughton earlier in the year. Father Joseph Armah performed the ceremony introducing to new members of God's family to the world. Thank you to all that joined us for this very special occasion. Debra Fleming (proud Grandma)



*(L-R) Nathan, Freddie & Jodi Fleming (Freddie's Parents), Timothy & Jessica Boughton (Freddie's Godparents & Winston's parent's), Aaron & Rachel Fleming & James Boughton with their new godson Winston Boughton*



## St Mary's Armidale Hats and Boots

This year for Catholic Mission fundraising St Mary's Armidale decided that the funds raised by their school community would go towards those farmers struggling with financial difficulties due to the drought. Students were asked to wear wide brimmed hats and boots along to school for the day. They bought in coins to place on a coin line. The total length of the coin lines measured was 120.3 meters. Once again the St Mary's Community have been very supportive of our fundraising activities.

*St Mary's students creating the coin line*

## New Altar Servers

The past couple of weeks have been busy at St Joseph's West Tamworth. The beginning of this term saw 7 very excited and eager year 3 children be inducted to become altar servers. They have since participated in school and weekend masses.

We had a Melbourne Cup Mufti Day to raise funds for Catholic Missions. The children came to school dressed in race attire.

Over the past 6 weeks we have also been lucky enough to have our transition class complete an Orientation Program. They had a wonderful time and have become familiar with the school environment and made new friends. We look forward to having them start next year.



*Clare Taylor and Ellie O' Halloran, Madeleine Monet, Orlando York, Mia Gardner, Layla Potts & Malachy Mckenzie with Fr Anthony Koppman*



## Ready for Big School at Sacred Heart Boggabri

Recently there were five very excited transition students at Sacred Heart Primary Boggabri who were officially recognised as completing their Kindergarten Transition Program by taking part in an official graduation ceremony. Dougie, Kale, Kiarah, Victoria and Matilda have been coming to school every Friday since Term 1 to help them prepare for Kindergarten next year. The Graduation Ceremony/School Assembly was very well attended with a large number of parents/grandparents attending, as well as all of the students and staff members. The transition students performed a range of musical items with the K-2 class, as well as receiving their official Transition Graduation Certificates. A big thank you goes out to Mrs Howarth, Mrs Rees and also to Mrs Wise-Langham for organising and leading the program. We certainly hope to see them on their first day of Kindergarten next year.

*Our Transition Program Graduates: L-R Kiarah Hill, Kale Dickens, Victoria Talbott, Douglas Watson and Matilda Rowland.*

# Around 'n About

## Year 6 Sydney Camp

Year 6 children from St Nicholas' Primary Tamworth enjoyed the trip of a lifetime as they explored Sydney. They were lucky to enjoy many attractions and venues such as the Sydney Eye Tower, Government House, State Parliament, Taronga Zoo, Hyde Park Barracks, Sydney Aquarium, St Mary's Cathedral, The Jewish Museum and Mary Mackillop Place.

*St Nicholas' Tamworth Yr 6 students, Archie Ringland, Ella Halcroft, Hannah Curtis, Cate Winnick, Georgia Williams, Henry George, Francesa Sears, Vienna Sharpe, Olivia Banovich & Angus Thomas at Government House Sydney*



## Taste the difference

A classroom isn't always inside a building. Some St Joseph's Barraba students have been directing their own gardening project in the playground. The students noticed raised beds in the playground were under used and brought in manure, seedlings, plants and mulch to reinvigorate the beds. The children range in ages across primary and infants and have collaborated to create a thriving vegetable plot using their break times. The students have even spared some cotton plants from their weeding efforts (there's cotton seed everywhere because of the drought) in order to observe how a cotton plant grows. The school canteen is now using the spring crops in lunches, and we can taste the difference.

*St Joseph's Barraba students hard at work in their garden*

## The Jacaranda Social Club

Mini Vinnie's members were invited to attend the Jacaranda Social Club which is run by the Home Nursing Group in Armidale. Students took along games to play with the elderly clients and books to read. The morning was thoroughly enjoyed by all and there are further visits planned before the end of the year.

*Poppy McKay, Freya Giles & Bridget Diefenbach playing games with Ann at the Jacaranda Social Club*





## Confirmation – St. Edward's Parish

Bishop Michael Kennedy met with the Confirmation candidates prior to the Sacrament of Confirmation. The students were keen to demonstrate their knowledge of the Sacrament and their chosen Saint. They enjoyed hearing about Bishop Kennedy's own experiences of Confirmation and attending Mass as a child. Congratulations to the parents and teachers for their invaluable preparation of the children. Congratulations also to the children on receiving the final Sacrament of initiation.

*Makayla Hoffman with Bishop Kennedy and her sponsor, Clare Dubois*

## Crazy Outfits and Colourful Hair

St. Francis Xavier's School Narrabri was very colourful with the children wearing crazy socks and styling their hair in colourful, creative styles. The purpose of the fun fashion was to raise money for Catholic Missions, with the children contributing money for the privilege of dressing up. The students had great fun coming up with a crazy outfit to go with their colourful hair. Their enthusiasm helps to contribute to our successful fundraising.

*Yr 1R showing off their crazy styles.*



## Future Journalists!

The Sydney Opera House and Premier's Reading Challenge hosted a free Video Conference with author Jessica Townsend to launch Wundersmith: The Calling of Morrigan Crow, the second book in her critically acclaimed Nevermoor series. Her debut novel, Nevermoor: The Trials of Morrigan Crow, was the biggest-selling Australian children's debut since records began!

N.S.W students were able to submit questions to Jessica prior to the interview. We must have future journalists in Stage 3 and 4 at St Philomena's as a number of our questions were answered by Jessica! Having our questions chosen also means we will now receive a free copy of her second novel Wundersmith: The Calling of Morrigan Crow!

*Year 7 student group video conferencing with Jessica Townsend*



Part of your parish  
Part of your school  
Part of your community

## ADIG in your community

Community involvement has always been a part of ADIG's values. Over the past few months, we have been involved in many events throughout our Diocese.



*ADIG Relationship Officer Jason Crocker presenting the distribution cheque to Bishop Kennedy and some of our Diocesan priests.*

## Parish Distributions

Every year, ADIG gives back to all of our parishes in the form of a distribution. In 2018, we were proud to be able to give a combined total of \$580,000 to the parishes.

These funds are used in various ways by the different parishes and are always very gratefully received.

In addition to this, ADIG also gave \$1.2 million to the Diocese as a whole and a further \$100,000 to the Armidale Clergy Fund.

This is a magnificent achievement that would not have been possible had we not had the outstanding support of our clients.

## Werris Creek Church Centenary

St Thomas More Parish has been the centre of Catholic Faith in the area since 1918. This year, it commemorated its 100th anniversary with a special mass celebrated by Bishop Kennedy.

ADIG was proud to be a major sponsor as well as attend this event and celebrate with the more than 100 parishioners present.



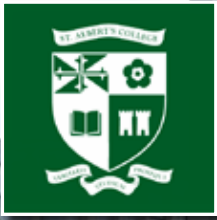
## ADIG All-rounder Award

Now in its second year, ADIG was proud to continue its association with the Diocesan High Schools by offering the ADIG All-rounder award to Year 12 students who are undertaking tertiary or vocational study next year.

The quality of entries was so high that in addition to the three \$1500 awards, a further two \$500 encouragement awards were also awarded. We congratulate Eleanor George and Maggie Fulwood of McCarthy, Eliza Perkins of St Mary's Gunnedah, and Liam Skinner and Samuel Frazier of O'Connor.



# St Albert's Upsizes



*St Albert's Dining Hall extension under construction*

The St Albert's College Dining Hall has been the central hub of the 'Albies' community for 49 years. Throughout the years students have been utilising the Dining Hall for meals, formal dinners, study, seminars, trivia nights, and much more, all while being watched over by an image of the College's namesake, St Albert the Great. A sentiment that many students share is that the Dining Hall has provided a melting pot where some of the strongest and sometimes unlikely friendships have been forged over a hot meal.

In recent years, the college has been fortunate in having strong enrolment numbers. The only downside to the stellar enrolments being that the student community has outgrown some of the College facilities; making it necessary to host some formal dinners and other larger College events offsite. Considering this, and the looming 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations next year, the College has embarked on its most significant facility upgrade in decades and is currently midway through upgrading and extending the Dining Hall facilities in an effort to bring all College events back home. In doing so the College leadership hopes to provide the ultimate collegiate experience building on what many alumni and friends have experienced during their time at Albies.

As part of the upgrade, the College will also be unveiling the 'Knight's Table' in recognition of Janice Knight and her husband, the late

Trevor Knight, who were instrumental in the establishing years of St Albert's and in the decades after. Trevor and Janice are remembered fondly by alumni and the College is proud to be able to pay tribute to them. The Knight's Table will take pride of place in the Dining Hall as the new High Table for all formal dinner events. The College will be proudly unveiling the new Dining Hall in January with the official opening coming at the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on the 30<sup>th</sup> of March 2019.



*St Albert's Dining Hall 1969*



*Mrs Karen Keys (Principal –St Michael's), Harry Hagon (Sports Captain), Brodie Smith (School Captain), Mr Chris Fanklin (Assistant Principal – Holy Cross Catholic Primary), Olivia Coombes (School Captain) & Jayda Constable (Sports Captain). Photo Credit – Miss Emma Martin*

# Communities Connecting

It with great excitement that St Michael's Catholic Primary School, Manilla can advise that they have received another generous donation to assist our drought affected students, parents and families.

Mrs Keys was contacted by Assistant Principal, Mr Chris Franklin from Holy Cross Catholic Primary School, Kincumber to advise that they would like to make a donation to St Michael's as they had become aware of the current drought and the impacts of drought.

Holy Cross Catholic Primary donated \$2703.95 to assist drought affected families with School related expenses such as School fees, School Excursions, Uniform costs and also to assist with purchasing everyday essential items such as groceries and toiletries. Holy Cross Catholic

Primary also donated numerous items of children's clothing in a range of sizes which will be given out to students at our next assembly.

The positivity that has come from Holy Cross Catholic School, Kincumber generosity has been overwhelming, and words cannot thank them enough for thinking of our students and our school community during these tough times.

Whilst there has been some localised rain in areas in our district we unfortunately are not out of drought as yet. However, it has been a welcome and uplifting sight to see the tinge of green throughout the landscape. We continue to pray for rain to all areas in desperate need.

## St Vincent de Paul

The NSW St Vincent de Paul Society Drought Appeal has raised in excess of \$1,900,000 which includes a \$1 million allocation from the National Farmers Federation. The \$900,000 has come from the Society, from Catholic Schools and from the general public.

In the Armidale Diocese, the St Vincent de Paul Society began assessments and allocations for drought relief 17<sup>th</sup> August 2018. In the period to date (13<sup>th</sup> Novemeber) our voluntary co-ordinators have spent 142.33 hrs in the allocation of funding and has assisted 91 individual cases in 35 locations across the Diocese to a total value of \$292,484. So, the average amount of assistance to each farmer is \$3,214. The total allocation of St Vincent De Paul funds was \$273,984.00 and the the

total supplementary (energy vouchers etc) \$18,500.00

The type of assistance has been with accounts held by farmers, who are challenged to pay them from their dwindling income from little or no farming activity. The funds have been used to assist farmers holding bills for farm fuel, farm produce, veterinary and pharmacy costs, farm machinery repairs including refitting of tyres, farm vehicle registration, water supply and cartage, partial farm rates, household bills, food gift cards and medical fees. Through this approach, funds are also flowing into local communities to assist businesses also affected by the prolonged drought.

The generosity of Australians towards people suffering in their everyday lives is magnificent.



## Small Offerings

Our Diocese was blessed with some generous donations from other parishes in other dioceses in NSW and from our religious sisters' congregations, who wanted to help those affected by the drought. A call was sent out to the areas affected to find the best way to distribute these donations straight to those who needed it. With some help from our Priests and religious Sisters around our Diocese we were able to do just that. Gift cards were purchased from within the towns' local businesses and then discreetly given to those in need, with a caring message:

*For many of our farmers it is difficult to be on the receiving end of life. Farmers are normally the ones we call on for so much: the use of their ute, truck or tractor, some fresh fertiliser or hay, fresh produce for the fete or perhaps just their muscles for some removal of rubbish.*

*On behalf of the Diocese we would like you to accept this small gift that we can offer as an acknowledgement that times are awfully tough for you at present. We know that when the good times flow for you again you will continue to be your usual generous selves.*

*Please be assured of our prayers in these tough times. Please ring the help Lines if you feel too overwhelmed. It is easy to be resilient for a few months but this period is huge and ongoing.*

**Dear Sr Angela,**

I am writing to you to thank you & the Diocese of Armidale, along with the Sisters of Mercy for the very generous donation to my husband & I to help us during this ongoing drought.

I was completely overcome when I opened this envelope, as I really thought it was a bill & as I read your letter of explanation, it was such an uplifting feeling.

We are familiar with challenging conditions but this time it seems to have gone on for so long- it is quite a test for

the whole region as it waits & hopes for conditions to improve.

We feel very blessed to be the recipients of your prayers -as well as financial help & thank you to the wonderful generosity that made this possible. It is in Gods Hands of course but we appreciate very much the care we have been shown in 'our time of need'.

We pray for your needs too & we look forward to again being in a better position where we can help others very soon,

Kind Regards

**To all whom it may concern,**

I would like to express to you all, how very much it meant to me when I received your gift card and voucher. Everything helps in these very hard times. However just knowing that people care enough to do this, means so very much more to me. To you all I say "thank you" for being the people that you are.

I feel so much love in my heart to all for your kindness.

Thank you.

**Thank you for your kind voucher.**

We have been subject to severe drought conditions for some years. We had no crop in 2013, 2014, 2015, 2017 and 2018.

Cashflow has been strained, and we are not eligible for much in the way of assistance from government. We had made extensive preparations for drought by improving our livestock water supply in 2010, and by storing over 2000mt of silage in 2012. These reserves have been a great help, but are almost gone.

Fortunately we had a reasonable crop in 2016, which was a great relief.

Recent rains have not been much relief thus far, but we pray that this is the beginning of the end.


## Advertise with Viewpoint - Next issue due: 1st February 2019

**Viewpoint is an A4 size, full colour, bi-monthly publication**

- A wide distribution throughout the Diocese
- free of charge
- available in every parish and school in the diocese
- linked to the Diocesan website
- All advertisements will be full colour
- (note: front and back covers not available)
- 10% discount if you advertise for a full year – 6 issues



To know more:  
talk to Naomi 02 6771 8700 or  
email: catholicviewpoint@armidale.catholic.org.au



“The Lord listens  
to those who,  
trampled in their  
dignity, still find  
the strength to look  
up to him for light  
and comfort.”

---

POPE FRANCIS

## WORLD DAY OF THE POOR



### Who is Jesus to me?

Jesus is the Word made Flesh.  
Jesus is the Bread of Life.  
Jesus is the Victim offered for our sins on the Cross.  
Jesus is the Sacrifice at Holy Mass for the sins of the world and mine.  
Jesus is the Life – to be loved.  
Jesus is the Joy – to be shared.  
Jesus is the Hungry – to be fed.  
Jesus is the Thirsty – to be satiated.  
Jesus is the Naked – to be clothed.  
Jesus is the Homeless – to be taken in.

Jesus is the Sick – to be healed.  
Jesus is the Lonely – to be loved.  
Jesus is the Unwanted – to be wanted.  
Jesus is the Leper – to wash his wounds.  
Jesus is the Beggar – to give him a smile.  
Jesus is the Drunkard – to listen to him.  
Jesus is the Little One – to embrace him.  
Jesus is the Drug Addict – to befriend him.  
Jesus is the Prostitute – to remove from danger.  
Jesus is the Prisoner – to be visited.  
Jesus is the Old – to be served.  
Jesus is my Everything. Amen.

<https://daily-prayers.org/angels-and-saints/prayers-of-blessed-mother-teresa-of-calcutta/>



## Caritas Network's Ongoing Response to Sulawesi Tsunami and Earthquake

One month after a 7.5 magnitude earthquake and tsunami struck the Indonesian island of Sulawesi, the Caritas international network continues to assist those whose lives were devastated by this massive natural disaster. Up to 2.4 million people were affected when the earthquake hit the Minahassa Peninsula, which triggered a tsunami, with waves of up to 6 metres, impacting Palu, Donggala, Mapaga, Gorontalo, and Poso.

Buildings, including houses, shops, mosques, and hotels collapsed, were swept away or suffered extensive damage. Around 2096 people are known to have died, with 10,679 people seriously injured. Over 87,000 people were displaced, taking shelter in evacuation centres or informal camps, with many more staying with relatives or friends. Weeks after the deadly disaster, many people remain far from home.

Caritas Australia's local partners, Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and Caritas Indonesia (Karina) have already distributed essential food, lifesaving water and non-food items to 6,000 households, as well as 9,900 tarpaulins and 2,000 kits of household and hygiene supplies to affected families.

Fifty-five year old grandmother, Umi and her family are among those who haven't yet returned to their village. Her life changed forever, when her entire neighbourhood was flattened by a mudflow caused by the earthquake.

"When the earthquake struck, I panicked and prayed," Umi says. "I grabbed my grandson and granddaughter. We saw the land, the ground, splitting and cracking, with mud and water coming out of the ground. We slept under the sky that night. It was dark, as the electricity was down. But, we're thankful we're safe," she says. "I'm too scared to see my village. I have been living under the tents with my daughter and grandkids," Umi says.

Caritas' local partners have identified the rehabilitation and clean-up of wells as key priorities to improve access to water for drinking and washing, to assist people in returning home. "I don't know what fate will bring us, I don't know how long we will stay here under the tent, but we're together with other neighbours here. Thank you for helping us."

Caritas Australia, is also responding to the disaster, in partnership with CAN DO (Church Agencies

Network – Disaster Operations), a consortium of eight church agencies, through the Australian Humanitarian Partnership. Caritas is a partner of the Australian Humanitarian Partnership Agreement between DFAT and six of Australia's leading International NGOs, together they are responding rapidly to global disasters and to build resilience to future crises.

Caritas media contact: Nicole Clements on 0408 869 833/[nicolec@caritas.org.au](mailto:nicolec@caritas.org.au) or Daniel Nour on 0407 536 130/[/caritasmedia@caritas.org.au](mailto:/caritasmedia@caritas.org.au)



*Umi with her grandchildren*

# Retirement is a Journey Not a Destination

Needs and wants change as the years go by and we grow older but needing to move into a retirement village does not mean it's the end, retirement is just the next chapter in life and it can be extremely fulfilling.

For a long time, Retirement Villages have wrongly been associated with aged care or nursing home facilities, when in fact they offer and pro-actively encourage people to live independently.

As we age, our family homes sometimes don't suit our changing needs and that is where smart design, convenient locations and the no maintenance environment that retirement villages offer, become an appealing choice.

Oak Tree recognise that today's retirees are looking for a smaller house located within their home town. This is why each Oak Tree village is close to all community and medical facilities. Couple this with the security of gated communities and recreational facilities that residents can use at their leisure, retirement village living moves away from the notion of being aged care.

From experience, the Oak Tree Retirement Group can attest that you don't stop living when you move into a

retirement village – life just gets easier.

The Oak Tree Group has a strong regional focus when selecting the location of its villages, allowing seniors to retire peacefully in the towns they feel the most comfortable in.

The ageing population in regional communities highlights the need for affordable and accessible housing options for retirees in rural areas. For many to attain an improved lifestyle, communal living represents the most cost-effective option.

Downsizing to a village in many cases releases cash for residents to invest and live on, whilst enjoying a maintenance-free lifestyle. Another benefit of retirement living at Oak Tree is that each home has been thoughtfully designed with the future in mind.

General maintenance and repairs are organised by a Village Manager who oversees all aspects of the Village operations.

Call the Oak Tree team today on 1300 367 155 or visit [www.oaktreegroup.com.au](http://www.oaktreegroup.com.au)

## DISCOVER *More to Life*

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- Armidale
- Tamworth
- Gunnedah

DISPLAY  
HOMES OPEN  
MON TO FRI  
10AM - 2PM



OAK TREE  
RETIREMENT VILLAGES

Call 1300 367 155  
[oaktreegroup.com.au](http://oaktreegroup.com.au)



The men in the Armidale Cathedral Parish were treated to an inspiring talk by the menALIVE Brisbane speakers Robert Falzon (founder of the menALIVE movement) and Chris Kennedy. The topic was "The Importance of Fatherhood Today". We were challenged to discover the true meaning of our roles as fathers, the way God meant it to be. They outlined the challenges of being a man of God and what is required to be a good father.

Armidale menALIVE invites all the men of the parish to meet for sharing, Catholic formation and prayer on Wednesdays fortnightly at Fr Tim McCarthy Meeting Room Holy Family Parish Centre.



Robert Falzon

Time: 6:30 pm – 8:00pm

We are affiliated with the national menALIVE ministry. The flagship event for the menALIVE ministry is the **menALIVE weekend**.

The Armidale group seek to attend the **menALIVE to the MAX weekend annually**. See <http://www.menalive.org.au/>

For more information contact: Cathedral Office 6772 2218 or [armidalemenalive@gmail.com](mailto:armidalemenalive@gmail.com)



## St. Lorenzo Ruiz Feast Day

The Tamworth Filipino Community celebrated San Lorenzo Ruiz's feast day at Mary Help of Christians Church, South Tamworth. All gathered at the Parish oval for a reception with traditional Filipino food. It was a joyful moment for all the families to celebrate together this special occasion in the Filipino history.

St. Lorenzo Ruiz is the first Filipino saint. He was born in Binondo, Manila. He was an altar boy, became a member of the Confraternity of the Holy Rosary and parish secretary at the Binondo church.

He had a wife and three children. His life was Christ-centred. He was falsely accused of killing a Spaniard and

knowing that he won't be treated fairly by the Spaniards, he sought asylum on board a ship with the help of missionary priests. When the ship landed in Okinawa, Japan, the group was arrested.

At that time, Christians were persecuted if they would not renounce their Christian faith. Those few who recant are spared and allowed to live. But few people ever recanted, choosing instead to die for their faith. Lorenzo refused to recant. According to the record of his death, his last words were, "I am a Catholic and wholeheartedly do accept death for God. Had I a thousand lives, all these to Him I shall offer. Do with me as you please." Lorenzo Ruiz was the last one to die after three days of torture.

*Back Cover Caption:*

*Yr 5 students from St Nicholas Primary School Tamworth aiming for a bullseye with help from their friends whilst on 'camp'.*

